

3 ACTIVITIES ON THE SURFACE OF WATER

ISSUE

Managing the effects of activities on the surface of water in this District, including: the integrity of the surface of water and land banks immediately adjacent; the safety of people (other than those in boats) recreating in or adjacent to rivers and other water bodies; the effects of noise generated by activities on amenity, natural heritage and landscape values; the impact of human activities on the natural values of the river environs and consideration of existing activities.

Explanation

The Resource Management Act now provides for the control by District Councils of the effects of activities on the surface of water other than in the Coastal Marine Area, in conjunction with their responsibility for the management of land and associated natural and physical resources.

The Canterbury Regional Council has responsibility for managing activities on the surface of water in the Coastal Marine Area.

OBJECTIVE

- (1) Provide for a diverse range of activities on the surface of water in rivers, and other bodies of freshwater, while ensuring adverse effects on the natural environment including threatened wildlife, and recreational, safety and amenity values are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Principal Reason

Gives recognition to the needs of all recreational users of rivers and river environs, while protecting areas with high conservation and amenity values from the adverse effects of some activities.

- (2) Safeguard the integrity of the surface of water.

Principal Reason

Addresses Takata Whenua concern that recreational users ensure that the water surface is free of human debris and pollutants.

POLICIES

- (1) To encourage safe practices amongst users of the surface of water in rivers and other bodies of freshwater, and on river banks in the District, compatible with recreational, conservation and amenity values.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Provides a measure of public safety for non-motorised recreational use of river and river environs. Permits areas with high conservation and amenity values to be protected from the adverse effects of some water based activities. Provides for the integrated management of these activities while recognising the need to protect natural values.

- (2) To provide for all types of craft on the surface of water. Motorised craft are restricted on the Rangitata River. Very limited provision is made for activities on the surface of water on the Opihi and other rivers where priority is given to other users.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Provision is made for all types of craft on the surface of water in some part of the District. Motorised craft on small rivers such as the Opihi can have adverse effects on the natural habitat of trout and salmon and the species on which they feed. They can be in conflict with other natural and recreational values and because there are alternatives including the Rangitata River for motorised craft the adverse effects on small and more sensitive water courses should be avoided. Limitations are imposed on commercial use because the scale and intensity can have adverse effects including environmental effects and safety concerns. On water bodies such as disused gravel pits the effects of the scale and intensity of proposed use, the nature of the surrounding environment and any natural values will need to be considered on any proposal.

- (3) Mitigate the adverse effects of motorised activities on threatened bird species.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Avoiding adverse effects on threatened bird species is consistent with Part II of the Resource Management Act which gives priority to habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance (section 6(c)).

- (4) To co-operate with the Canterbury Regional Council in providing equity and effectiveness in inter-district noise management when

noise from activities within the coastal marine area affects landward neighbouring land uses.

Explanation and Principal Reason

This Policy supports the Objective by promoting an integrated and consistent approach between activities on land and those within the coastal marine area (which is under the jurisdiction of the Canterbury Regional Council). Activities in the coastal marine area may also have an adverse noise effect on land uses within the District.

- (5) To provide for the use of Mokihi and Waka, traditional and indigenous craft, on water surfaces.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Recognises the regional history of these waterways. Provides opportunities for integrated usage of water surfaces.

- (6) To ensure that accessways to water surfaces by recreational craft are compatible with the best environmental practices.

Explanation and Principal Reason

Alerts all recreational users of waterways to the need to care for river banks and land immediately adjacent to waterways (see also Rules for Rural Zones).

METHODS

- (1) Promoting public awareness of areas of rivers in the District where multiple use has the potential for environmental conflict.

Principal Reason

Reduces conflict between different activities.

- (2) Using rules and resource consents to reduce conflict between the multiple activities carried out on the surface of water and other recreation and conservation values (see General Rule 6.20).

Principal Reason

Provides a means of allocating space to riverbed activities that avoids or mitigates adverse environmental effects and protects the habitat of indigenous fauna and threatened bird species.

- (3) Co-ordinating with other organisations that have responsibilities in this area to better assess where any Council intervention is required.

Principal Reason

Reduces duplication of functions, avoids inadequacies in service delivery, facilitates information sharing, and promotes integrated management.

- (4) In consultation with Kati Huirapa prepare documentation for recreational users of the surface of water.

Principal Reason

Encourages compatibility between users through a better understanding of indigenous values.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

- (1) A wide range of boating activities will be possible on the Rangitata River with more controls on other waters.
- (2) The protection of natural and conservation values associated with small rivers and other fresh water systems in the District from the impact of motorised craft.

MONITORING

- (1) To investigate threats to public safety and conservation values reported to Council where the Maritime Safety Authority are not involved.
- (2) To monitor any consents that might be granted and record any violation of rules or conditions of consents.
- (3) To seek assistance with enforcement from Department of Conservation, Canterbury Regional Council and Maritime Safety Authority (honorary officers).
- (4) To assess this policy in 6 years or earlier and consider its effectiveness.

Principal Reason

Information gathered using monitoring procedures provides a basis for assessment of the need for Council intervention and avoids the need for duplication of responsibility, for example there may be sufficient overlap between organisations to satisfy the District's needs.